

Remarks

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed February 15, 2006. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claim 16. Claims 1 and 8 are being amended. In view of the above amendment to claims 1 and 8 and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-15 and the issuance of a Notice of Allowability indicating the allowance of claims 1-16. In addition, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner acknowledge that Timmer (U.S. Pat. No. 2,990,964) was considered during the prosecution of the present application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 8-10, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogilvy et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3,636,508) in view of Laurent et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,442,988). Claims 1 and 8 are being amended to include the novel subject matter of allowed claim 16. Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 14, and 15 depend from one of claims 1 and 8, which Applicant believes are allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 8-10, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 4-7 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogilvy et al. and Laurent et al., as applied to claims 1 and 8, and further in view of Brown et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,485,977). As discussed above, claims 1 and 8 are being amended to include the novel subject matter of allowed claim 16. Claims 4-7 and 11-13 depend from one of claims 1 and 8, which Applicant believes are allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-7 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Finally, Applicant submitted an Information Disclosure Statement (copy enclosed) citing Timmer (U.S. Pat. No. 2,990,964). The copy of the Information Disclosure Statement was returned to Applicant with the Office Action. Unfortunately, the Examiner acknowledged the foreign patent documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement and failed to acknowledge Timmer. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner acknowledge that Timmer was cited by the Applicant in the Information Disclosure Statement.

Claim 16 is allowed and claim 1 and 8 are being amended. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-15 and the issuance of a Notice of Allowability indicating the allowance of claims 1-16. No fees for filing this response are believed to be due. However, if any fees are due, including

fees for extensions of time, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them to deposit account no. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. G. Radler', written over a horizontal line.

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